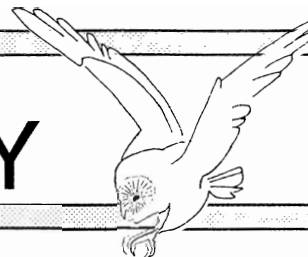


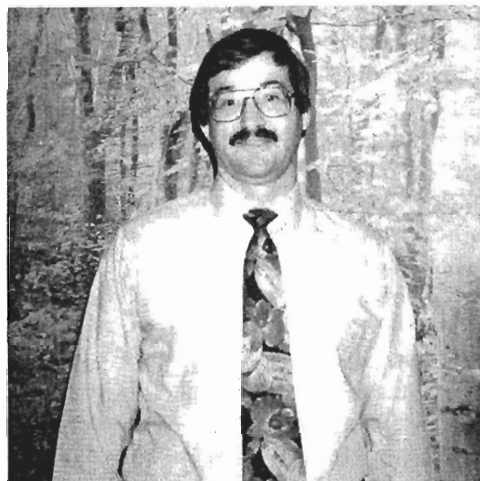
NATURALLY KENTUCKY



Number 7, May 1993

KSNPC HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

On January 22, Robert McCance, Jr., became the third Director of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC). Bob comes to us from Ohio, where he worked for 15 years in the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He served as Ohio Natural Heritage Program Administrator for 12 years and worked from 1989-93 promoting the natural areas checkoff program on the Ohio income tax return.



Robert McCance, Jr. - New Director of KSNPC

Bob served as President of the Natural Areas Association from 1983-85, and was a member of the board of this national natural areas professional organization from 1980-86. He has experience at natural areas grant administration, budget management, supervising natural area inventories, and many other activities that directly relate to KSNPC's mission.

Status of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

by Robert McCance, Jr., Director

I have been Director of KSNPC for ten weeks now, and have at least convinced myself that I have begun to understand the overall status of this program. I wish to share with our supporters what I see as the strengths and weaknesses of our effort.

We currently have a staff of 15, only seven

of whom are funded by the state's general fund. Land acquisition monies have been appropriated for our use by the Kentucky General Assembly in this biennium and in the previous biennium. The nature preserve system continues to grow, and we are adding to our knowledge of the state on a daily basis. KSNPC and The Nature Conservancy have conducted first-level, general natural areas inventories in 50 counties, and our Natural Heritage Database is the state's best source of information on rare and endangered plants and animals. More and more researchers, state and local agencies, environmental consultants, and others are using our information in their decision making. This "one stop shopping" for this

(STATUS cont.)

important biological data helps others save time and money in their work. This data services effort in and of itself justifies our work-we save Kentucky money that would otherwise be spent in more expensive information gathering activities. We manage 30 areas encompassing 8,736 acres as state nature preserves. At many of these areas, we do not have all of the land necessary to protect them in the long-term, so additional acquisition will be necessary. We lack management plans on virtually all of the preserves. Our three preserve management staff work very hard, and they have an enthusiastic volunteer network of preserve monitors and others who help care for the preserves. All of the decisions and plans seem appropriate, but the complexity of the tasks facing them is overwhelming. As stewards of Kentucky's preserves, they are clearly on the right track, but are woefully understaffed and underfunded. Our primary mission is to acquire and manage a statewide system of nature preserves, but our state general funds provide only one permanent staff position to accomplish this task. Your check-off donations to the Nongame Wildlife/Natural Areas Fund provide additional, greatly needed monies for this task.

Many grants and contracts, funded by a variety of state and federal agencies, pay for about half of our current work. These grants and contracts obligate us to conduct work needed by others, but fortunately we are able to take on this work only when it will add valuable data to our database and allow us to make better decisions about which natural areas are most important and which rare species are in greatest need of assistance. We have come to depend upon these funding sources, but

unfortunately I see the time approaching when we will have completed inventories on most of Kentucky's managed areas (such as national parks, wild rivers, Daniel Boone National Forest, U. S. Department of Defense properties, etc.), and the money we have come to depend upon will be significantly reduced.

The most pleasant discovery of all is that you have a KSNPC staff who are highly educated, very dedicated, and most energetic. These people all seem to care very much about their work-it is not just a job to them. We are fortunate to have an active volunteer network of individuals who give up their personal time in order to do hard physical labor so that our natural areas will be better cared for.

My predecessor, Richard Hannan, worked miracles with a very small (less than \$400,000/year) operating budget. Meeting our responsibility in the future, especially in regard to our management responsibility on the natural areas that have become state nature preserves, is a far more expensive process than is currently funded by the state. We cannot get grants or contracts from others to do this work, because it truly is *our* work-the mission of our agency is to build and care for a statewide system of nature preserves. It is our obligation to take care of them. Where the general fund provides for one staff person, we really need several people now and will need more as our land management responsibility grows.

The general fund provides for two staff to conduct inventories (we actually have five, thanks to grant money), yet Kentucky is still losing natural areas rapidly. This spring Landon McKinney conducted a preliminary natural areas inventory in a five-county

area in southwestern Kentucky. Review of 10 year old aerial photos caused him to identify 50 areas as potential natural areas, yet a review of one year old aerial photo slides of these sites showed that 15 of them had been destroyed in the previous nine years. The rate of loss is awesome; we must work both fast and carefully to find the best areas worthy of protection.

We are a commission-therefore, we have commissioners-five citizens who give of their time to provide direction and guidance to our program. We are fortunate to have good people who care about the mission of this agency and who, as did their predecessors, are guiding it well.

In my review of our overall effort, I have set several goals for us. Some of these are new and some have been around for a long time. The activities that I believe will help us most in the next few years include the following: (1) Develop, implement, and monitor a good strategic plan for the program; (2) seek a stable source of land acquisition funds; (3) seek additional general funds from the Kentucky General Assembly so that we can truly implement the mission that they set out for us; (4) continue to provide for the needs of a dedicated and hard-working staff; (5) provide better information about our mission to Kentucky's general population, opinion-leaders, and KSNPC supporters; (6) make better use of the data we acquire to meet the needs of other organizations, government agencies, and businesses in Kentucky; and (7) continue to build a state nature preserves system that represents the finest examples of Kentucky's natural heritage for all Kentuckians. We can do it!

KENTUCKY'S NATURAL AREA REGISTRY PROGRAM: A STORY OF SUCCESS

By Landon E. McKinney

While trying to protect Kentucky's natural heritage can be a difficult and sometimes frustrating task, some of our most rewarding efforts have involved our Natural Areas Registry Program. This program protects approximately 5,655 acres of Kentucky's natural landscape.

The Natural Areas Registry Program combines the joint efforts of both the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in protecting remnants of Kentucky's natural heritage. The most rewarding part of this program is the fact that it involves a strictly voluntary effort on the part of each landowner.

This important program is quite simple. Once a unique natural area or perhaps a significant population of a rare plant or animal is found, the landowner is contacted and told of the importance of all or part of their property. While a number of protection options may be discussed, such discussions often target the Registry Program as the preferred route to protect something of natural significance. The registry agreement not only hinges on the landowners' acceptance and understanding of the natural significance of what they own but also their willingness to protect the significant features to the best of their ability.

Currently, 42 significant natural areas involving 47 landowners in 26 counties are voluntarily being protected for the benefit of present and future generations. Since its creation, 15 years ago, four registry

agreements have become null and void, only two of which were due to significant disturbance of the area being protected. This clearly indicates the willingness of the vast majority of Kentuckians to share in the protection of our natural heritage.

In terms of individual acreage, this program protects as much as 1731 acres of a quality natural area in Letcher County to a small limestone seep of less than a fraction of an acre in Clinton County that protects a significant population of a rare plant. Our registry agreements protect old growth forests, prairie remnants, rare plants such as Short's Goldenrod and Running Buffalo Clover and rare animals such as the Indiana Bat and Great Blue Heron rookeries.

While most agreements involve private landowners, several have been signed with federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. Other have involved private foundations such as the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation and public corporations such as the Cumberland Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.

To qualify as a Kentucky natural area eligible for registration, a property must contain one or more of these natural values:

- 1) habitat for plants or animals with declining populations in Kentucky
- 2) plant communities characteristic of the native vegetation of Kentucky
- 3) outstanding natural features such as old-growth forests, caves, or wetlands

We continue the long and arduous process of inventorying the state county by county in search of the best remnants of old growth forests, wetlands,

prairies, as well as our continual search for rare plants and animals. Accordingly, the Natural Areas Registry Program will continue to be one of the most rewarding tools available to protect Kentucky's natural heritage. This program will also stand as a solid tribute to our fellow Kentuckians who understand the need and are willing to share in the protection of Kentucky's natural wealth.

A MOTHER EARTH REUNION

Saturday, June 12, 1993
Pritchard Community Center
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Elizabethtown, KY

A day of learning and sharing about how we can all interact with nature and our Mother Earth. There will be hourly demonstrations, environmental information booths, Native American culture, artistic participation and much more.

Ed McGaa, Eagle Man
author of
Mother Earth Spirituality
and *Rainbow Tribe*

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Ed McGaa, a Lakota Sioux Indian, is an author and lecturer with a beautiful message to share about our interdependence with nature. He emphasizes that We Are All Related through our connection with Mother Earth. (\$10.00 Admission)

For more information and reservations (recommended) contact:

Dancing Bear Books,
211 West Poplar St.,
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

(502) 737-0331

KSNPC Rare Plant Discoveries of 1992

by Margaret Shea and Deborah White

One of the ultimate thrills for botanists is unexpectedly finding new populations of rare plants. Here are some of the spectacular botanical finds for Kentucky that we made in the last year.

Although everyone thought *Calopogon tuberosus*, Grass pink, may be sitting in some corner of eastern Kentucky, it had not been found at any of the former sites for several years. Just when we had decided to change the rank of this orchid to "extirpated", it was found under a powerline in Whitley County. Tom Bloom had noticed the powerline management was maintaining an interesting native herbaceous flora. His follow-up visit turned up grass pink, a delicate bright pink terrestrial orchid. Another rare associate, *Bartonia virginica*, yellow screwstem, was discovered (by the thousands!) later at this site along with six other KSNPC endangered and threatened plants. Fortunately, Cumberland Valley Rural Electric Co-op has agreed to register the powerline site and develop a management strategy that will protect these important botanical finds.



Cypripedium candidum

Another rare Kentucky orchid, *Cypripedium candidum*, was also discovered this year. It is unusual to imagine orchids growing in open rocky hillsides but that is preferred habitat for the beautiful small white lady's-slipper. Deborah White came upon eighteen plants near the edge of a limestone slope glade in Hardin County while botanizing with Ray Cranfill. We now have a total of five extant occurrences in the state, four of which have been found in the last three years. Also, several occurrences of the rare *Spiranthes magnicamporum*, Great plains ladies'-tresses, were found in this same

glade system last fall.

One important find that was discovered during the inventory for Bell, Harlan and Letcher Counties conducted by Marc Evans, is *Lycopodiella inundata*. This is a tiny club moss that was found near an old sandstone quarry on Pine Mountain and is the first record in Kentucky.

Landon McKinney came across a second occurrence of a rare grass, *Gymnopogon ambiguus*, beardgrass, in Pulaski County. This species apparently persists on sites that formerly supported barren vegetation, a dry open vegetation type with a rich ground flora.



Apios priceana

Some new finds also resulted from single species surveys that were partially funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A month of exploring for the federally endangered *Apios priceana* (Price's potato-bean) resulted in the discovery of one new population along a roadside in Livingston County by Margaret Shea and Amy Bruenderman. This vine in the pea family produces large clusters of sweet-smelling purple flowers. There are now five known populations of the species in Kentucky.

This team also found a new occurrence for another federally listed plant, *Spiraea virginiana* (Virginia spiraea), in Lewis County. This shrub grows on water-scoured gravel bars along rivers and creeks. Before last summer, the species was only known from the Rockcastle River and one of its tributaries but searches for Virginia spiraea in this river system revealed no new populations.

Three new populations of *Lesquerella globosa*, (Lesquereux's bladder-pod), a candidate for federal listing that occurs along clifftops and ledges, were discovered last spring.

(RARE PLANT DISCOVERIES OF 1992 cont.)

Three historical locations for the plant, one not seen since 1930, were also confirmed in these same locations. Searches were made for the species throughout its range to help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determine if the species should be listed.

With exciting finds like these waiting to be discovered in Kentucky, we can hardly wait for the 1993 field season to begin.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Cindy Campbell

Winter is a time of dormancy for most living things, but Commission volunteers are an exception. The volunteer team of Glenna Wood, Paula Quinn, James and Josephine Puckett, Cynthia Riedel, Bruce and Philip Scott, Karl Studenroth and Joan Noel combined efforts on January 23 to help make Vernon-Douglas State Nature Preserve in Hardin County a cleaner place to visit this spring. Several treasures were found during the removal of old household trash, tires and many bales of woven wire from a ravine near Audubon Trace. We appreciate Hardin County landfill personnel disposing of the garbage. Donovan Smith and Tom Puckett helped Joyce Bender install trail markers that day and discovered that post holes are much easier to dig in soil than in the bedrock that they frequently encountered.

This year I called upon several volunteers to help promote the Non-game Wildlife/Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Fund in their home towns. Among those to respond were Karen Veleta, Dave Hulefeld, Susan Stottman, Donna Gooch, Bob and Ruth Matheny,

Jean Byrley, Brenda Hamm, Kyle Napier, Elmer Iberg, Paula Quinn, Elizabeth Anne Rogers, Joey Roberts, Frank Lyne, Christine Rowe Hollins, Tony Newman, Ted White, Roseanna Denton and Lucia Beeler. The Commission relies heavily on dollars that it receives from this fund each year. With your assistance, the Fund received increased public visibility. We couldn't have done it without you.

We are especially appreciative of David Leibundguth and Robert Duncan for donating their time and specialized skills to the Commission. David has designed and is constructing brochure and sign-in boxes for several preserves. He is also building wooden frames which will encase and protect the new interpretive signs for Metropolis Lake State Nature Preserve in McCracken County. Robert took Joyce's concept for a volunteer T-shirt logo and produced a beautiful piece of artwork that I'm sure Commission volunteers will be proud to own. When we get them printed, the T-shirts will be offered to volunteers who have contributed a total of 20 hours to the program.

Thanks to those volunteers who have individually assisted us in the field recently. Ed Craft spent a day with us walking boundaries and removing a section of pipeline from Flat Rock Glade State Nature Preserve in Simpson County in February. Joey Roberts and Paula Quinn took time off from their busy schedules to spend a day with stewardship staff visiting Goodrum Cave State Nature Preserve in Allen County. They were able to experience firsthand several of the unforeseen problems that we encounter on routine preserve inspections.

Gina Baker, Scott Waldie, Rob Maloney, Darren Payne, Pam

Ediss, Rita Williamson, Keith Amburgey, Terese Pierskalla, Donna DePenning, Faith Eastwood, Joey and Brenda Roberts and Stacy Williamson constructed the final section of trail at Brigadoon State Nature Preserve on March 20. Our appreciation to all those who also helped cut, haul and stuff cedars into an eroded ravine on the preserve. There is no doubt that Mary Carol has now perfected the art of cedar stuffing. Special thanks to Bill Carroll, Martha Crabtree and Mary Carol Cooper for organizing the members from the Bluegrass Group of the Sierra Club for this 3-day service trip. We look forward to sharing more camaraderie with this group during Spring Equinox in the coming years. We also want to thank Dr. Starr for allowing us to remove cedars from his property.

Our sincere thanks to Frank Lyne, Ed Craft, Paula Quinn, Tony Newman and Lana Appling for going the extra mile and putting the emphasis on work for the workday at Logan County Glade State Nature Preserve in Logan County on March 27. This beautiful sunny day found the crew removing massive quantities of cut cedars from the glade to the chipper in record time. Thanks to these folks for enduring sunburn and many scratches. Ned and Sandy Kearny joined us in time to help spread the fresh chips on the trail.

We welcome new preserve monitors, Ned and Sandy Kearny (Raymond Athey Barrens), Donovan Smith and Lucia Beeler (Vernon-Douglas). They join Tony Newman (Logan County Glade), Stacy Williamson and Joey Roberts (Brigadoon), Tom Ress (Pilot Knob), Ed Craft (Flat Rock Glade) and TNC preserve stewards on state dedicated nature preserves Dale and

(VOLUNTEER NEWS cont.)

Sharon Reichert (Dinsmore Woods) and Dan Danford (Bad Branch). We regret that we will lose Tom Ress as preserve monitor at Pilot Knob in June. We wish Tom and his family the best of luck in their move to Alabama. If you are interested in monitoring this preserve beginning in June, please contact me.

Spring is finally here! We hope you'll take advantage of the events listed in the enclosed "Discover Kentucky" brochure to be held during the weekends of June 12-13 and 19-20. You won't regret it.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission is mandated to identify and preserve remnants of Kentucky's natural heritage in a state wide system of nature preserves.

WELCOME ELLIS



The Nature Preserves Commission welcomes a new staff member, Ellis Lauder milk. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resources in May of 1990 from Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), and his Master of Science in Biology in May of 1993, also from EKU. His primary area of study was in Aquatic Ecology, and his research interests include the taxonomy and natural history of aquatic invertebrates and fishes. He is a member of the American Malacological Union, Kentucky Academy of Science, Phi Sigma Biological Honor Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

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